

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael J. Guzniczak, reg. no. 59,820 on January 29, 2009.
3. The claims have been amended as follows:
 - a. Replace claim 34 to read as of the following,

In Claim 34,

34. (Currently Amended) A computing device for mimicking network devices, the computing device having first and second network interface cards, the first network interface card connecting the computing device to an external network and the second network interface card connecting the computing device to a local network, said computing device comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 38, 44 ~~[[and]]~~ or 46 to 70, and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

b. Replace claim 35 to read as of the following,

In Claim 35,

35. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for mimicking network devices and for being performed in a computing device having first and second network interface cards, the first network interface card connecting the computing device to an external network and the second network interface card connecting the computing device to a local network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 38, 44 ~~[[and]]~~ or 46 to 70.

c. Replace claim 36 to read as of the following,

In Claim 36,

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps to mimic network devices and to be performed in a computing device having first and second network interface cards, the first network interface card connecting the computing device to an external network and the second

network interface card connecting the computing device to a local network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 38, 44 ~~[[and]]~~ or 46 to 70.

Reason for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior arts of records teach or suggest in combination features of receiving, via the first network interface card, an incoming message from a client network device residing on the external network, the incoming message being addressed to an IP address of a designated one of the plurality of target network devices; determining, based at least in part on the rule corresponding to the designated target network device, if the incoming message requests a functionality that the one of the plurality of application modules is configured to perform, wherein the rule containing the IP address of a target network device in the inbound rules table that matches the IP address of the designated one of the plurality of target network devices is used to determine if the requested functionality is to be processed by the one of the plurality of application modules in the computing device, and wherein the processing of the requested functionality by the one of the plurality of application modules includes responding to the incoming message addressed to the target network device on behalf of the target network device; redirecting, in the case that the incoming message requests the functionality that the one of the plurality of application modules is configured to perform, the incoming message to the one of the plurality of application modules which performs the requested functionality in response to the incoming message, wherein the

one of the plurality of application modules performs the requested functionality on behalf of the designated one of the plurality of target network devices, and wherein the designated one of the plurality of target network devices lacks support for the requested functionality, wherein in the case that another application module of the plurality of application modules is configured to process another requested functionality after the processing of the requested functionality by the one of the plurality of application modules, a destination address of the incoming message is set to an IP address of the first network interface card; and passing, in the case that the incoming message does not request the functionality that the one of the plurality of application modules is configured to perform, the incoming message through the local network via the second network interface card to the designated target network device. . None of the prior arts of records teach or suggest the features above in combination with independent claim 1.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on (571) 272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Philip C Lee/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452